





## NOTICE

**A. S. WATSON AND CO.**  
FAMILY AND DISPENSARY  
CHEMISTS,  
By Appointment to His Excellency the Governor and His Royal Highness the DUKE OF EDINBURGH.  
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGISTS  
PATENT MEDICINE VENDORS  
DRUGGISTS' SUPPLIES  
And  
STERILIZED WATER MAKERS.  
SHIPS' MEDICINES, REQUISITES  
PASSENGER SHIPS SUPPLIED.

Notice.—To avoid delay in the execution of Orders it is particularly requested that all business communications be addressed to the Firm, A. S. Watson and Co., or HONGKONG DISPENSARY, 123.

**The Daily Press.**  
HONGKONG, JULY 21st, 1896.

As will be seen, on reference to our special telegram from Shanghai, the political situation is still one of great uncertainty. It would seem that the Chinese Authorities have failed to come to a decision within the period given to them by the French Government, and the Viceroy of the Liang Kiang has been deputed to open negotiations with M. PATEZOT, which would indicate that LI HUNG-CHANG and his co-operators did not succeed in their negotiations with the French Minister. If the terms mentioned in the telegram are, as we take it, those which the Viceroy has been authorized to offer, it is possible that he may come to some agreement with M. PATEZOT. But however that may be, it is evident by the excitement in Shanghai that a general sense of insecurity prevails and that reason alone for expecting either a popular outbreak or an early commencement of hostilities. Wherein the case the Consuls would hardly have arranged for the defence of the Settlements, and naval patrols been instituted. We must, however, still hope that war will be averted, though it is not too obvious that the position is exceedingly critical.

From an account published in the last issue of *The Times* it seems that the correspondent of that paper had an interview with the Viceroy of Chihli in Tientsin, in the course of which His Excellency delivered his opinions pretty freely on several matters. He did not believe that ten thousand French soldiers would suffice to hold Tientsin; he asserted that Tientsin would not pay the French for its occupation; he knew the Chinese had made a fiasco in Tientsin, but he pleaded that the Governor of Kwangsi, who had been placed in command, was ignorant of the rudiments of the military art, and the lessons learned from the reverse would bring about reforms in the administration of the army. He then added, and the correspondent says he "quoted the expression several times,"—"I have no new material. They will make do with what we shall have an army. All that is wanted is organization with drill and good officers." There is some foundation for this belief. The Chinese have a large supply of very fair raw material, but it is not readily amenable to discipline, and organization and drill by foreign instructors, no matter how thorough, would fail if accompanied by good officers. At present there are probably no officers worthy of the name in the Chinese army, and so long as they wear long coats, carry fans and umbrellas instead of arms, and require the pick of their men as a body guard to take care of them, it is extremely unlikely that the rank and file will develop into efficient troops. The day may come when China will possess an effective army, but it will be very many years before this can come to pass at the present rate of progress.

But the most important expression of opinion which fell from LI HUNG-CHANG was unquestionably that referring to the provincial autocrats. The *fonse et origo* of Chinese misadministration was, he said, the provincial autonomy and, by which the Viceroy and even the Governors were independent, controlling the administration, and being, as regarded military matters, profoundly ignorant. The first step towards reform was to establish improved means of communication. Without this nothing was possible. Herein may be found the origin of LI's advocacy and support of the telegraph and the railway. The Grand Secretary of Council is evidently in favour of still further centralizing the administrative power in the hands of the Government at Peking. Has he sufficiently calculated the result? Will it not be well to first of all reform the Central Government? Is there nothing corrupt or effete about this?

The *Times* very sensibly remarks on this head—"LI HUNG-CHANG has a right confidence in himself. He supposes that the soul which is to wield the power at the will of the whole would be his. Undoubtedly, with him in supreme command, the Imperial administration could not be too much strengthened for the advantage of the Chinese nation. But his theory of Chinese administrative incapacity is open to the fault of confusing cause and effect. Chinese district officials have arrogated prerogatives which they are unequal because the Central Government has been more unequal still. With the Government at Peking what has been and is, the wonder is that the enormous bulk has kept together at all. Credit must be allowed to the spirit of provincial autonomy, which the great Viceroy deprecates.

for the maintenance of a kind of life in the members when the brain was reanimated. If LI HUNG-CHANG, or one resembling him, will answer for the Imperial administration, provincial autonomy might be successfully curtailed. To compel the provinces to look to Peking for the absolute control of their local life would be to paralyze the whole of Chinese life, if Peking is to be what it has been. The hope infused by LI HUNG-CHANG's intimation of his scheme of reform is that he expects and intends Peking to cease to be what it has been? China has now arrived at a crisis in her history, the issue of which will either bring about a great advance, in which LI HUNG-CHANG will be the pioneer, or it will lead to a reaction, possibly a rebellion, and change the whole future of the country.

We would direct the attention of our readers to an important announcement, reproduced in another column from the *Japan Mail*, of the rehabilitation of the nobility of Japan. This measure, our Yokohama contemporary says, has long been expected. It is in fact the sequence to the Imperial Rescript of 1881 which promised a new constitution to Japan in 1890. It was always understood that the Japanese Parliament should consist of an Upper and a Lower House, and this measure is the preliminary step towards forming a Japanese House of Peers. The fact that the ranks of the Japanese nobility are to be reinforced by the elevation of a number of distinguished civil and military officers, men who have moulded the policy and directed the progress of New Japan, is alike interesting and satisfactory. It shows that the fusion of the old and the new parties in the Land of the Rising Sun is going on quietly and steadily, and that the numerous reforms achieved are now accepted by the nation. The feudal system has gone, never to return, and the era of constitutional Government is about to dawn. The Japanese people are now thoroughly imbued with a desire to remodel their institutions on those of the West, and however much one may regret the disappearance of so much that was picturesque and characteristic about the old customs and manners which they have for the last twenty years been so carefully putting off, yet it cannot be doubted that the country has gained largely by the change, and that the people will gain still more in the future when the mistakes made at the initiation of the Revolution have all been surmounted and forgotten.

The French cruiser *Sauro*, Capt. W. Noin, left this port on Saturday for the North. The American gunboat *Polo*, Commander Glidden, left here on Saturday for Canton. The French gunboat *Pipere*, Commander Picard, arrived here yesterday from Quinhon.

The *Nahel*, with the next French mail, left Saigon for this port yesterday morning at 10 o'clock.

We are requested to state that the usual autumn party at Mountain Lodge will not take place this year.

The next two direct steamers, with the seventh and eighth mails, will leave Canton on Saturday morning for this port.

We have received the first number of *Ozoboko*, a new Portuguese weekly paper published in this Colony. It is carefully edited and well and neatly got up.

The *Japan Mail* states that the Hon. F. H. P. Plunkett, British Minister to Japan, has not yet fully recovered from the effects of his late severe accident, but is progressing favourably.

The Agents (Messrs. Russell & Co.) inform us that the Union Line steamer *Albatross*, from London, left Singapore on Saturday afternoon, and may be expected to arrive here on the 25th inst.

A small gale which was being sailed in the harbour by Chinese yesterday afternoon was again in one of the gales, but most carrying away. The occupants were picked up by a man-of-war's boat and the gale was towed ashore.

The Chinese are busily engaged in constructing a new barrier in the Canton river about 500 yards to the north of the great timber bridge in Li Moen Beach. Files are being sunk, and it is expected that the new barrier will be filled in with stone.

The *Japan Mail* (in Tokyo paper) states that the Chinese Government are negotiating for the purchase of the rolling mills and other machinery now standing at Kanihiki, in Tsuru Prefecture, with the intention of using it at some iron mines contemplated opening in Yamanashi.

We learn from Yokohama papers that Lieutenant-General Takemura, late Governor-General of Turkestan, conqueror of Tashkent, General-in-Chief of the army in Serbia, and Member of the Grand Council of War, is now on his way to Japan, and is staying at the Russian Legation at Tokyo.

We have received the first four numbers of *El Porvenir*, a bi-weekly paper published at Iloilo. It contains a good deal of local news, and well written articles and commercial information. If, we believe, the only paper published at Iloilo, and ought to receive the support of the residents there.

Among the *Japan Mail* translations from Japanese vernacular papers is the following—"A Southern Lobo Coiled on the 1st of October, the effect that the capture of an English ship, on the way from Hongkong to Kobe, was murdered by six of the crew. The murderers hid themselves so soon as the vessel arrived in Kobe on the 3rd July, but two other sailors went on shore and reported the fact to the police."

We read in the *Ello de Chile* that Mr. Basco, attorney of Maipo, has offered himself as a candidate at the next election for the Chamber of Deputies for Maipo in the Province of Cortes, which has been fixed for the 27th inst. The Government candidate is Senator Scazzola; besides these two gentlemen there is a Senator Lobo Coiled on the 1st of October, the effect that the capture of an English ship, on the way from Hongkong to Kobe, was murdered by six of the crew. The murderers hid themselves so soon as the vessel arrived in Kobe on the 3rd July, but two other sailors went on shore and reported the fact to the police."

The *Rapido*, the small tug-boat constructed at Hongkong for Iloilo, arrived at the latter port from Manila on the 18th inst.

The *Strait Times* of the 18th inst. says—"The Acting Governor posted this morning a telegram to the Governor-General of the Philippines, dated at Penang, reporting that he had received letters from the Duke of the Nivosa and from the Duke of the 4th July. These letters confirm the news of the death of the three men, who were already being published, as well as another, Michael Garita (or Garvey). The remainder of the crew was well, and the epidemic had ceased. Captain Blackford had sent a supply of medicine and had arranged for sailors being despatched twice a month from the crew."

On the afternoon of the 10th inst. the case of H. Miller, charged with the forgery of a cheque purporting to be signed by Messrs. Weller & Co. of Hongkong, for \$251, came before Mr. J. W. North KC at Singapore. Mr. Donaldson appeared on behalf of the prosecution, and got out of the "Fugitive Offenders' Act" in support of the action of the prosecution, and also from an Ordinance in force in Hongkong, which provided for the punishment of life for forgery. Having put in as evidence the warrant for the arrest of Miller, signed by the Magistrate at Hongkong, he called Mr. Foster KC. That gentleman produced the cheque produced was proved by either him or his brother, who alone was authorized to sign for the firm, and that the signature of the cheque was not that of the prisoner. Mr. Alexander Dewar Maclellan, cashier of the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank at Hongkong, deposed that on the 17th June the cheque in question was presented to him by the prisoner, and that he had no recollection of the signature. Mr. Miller, who was a prisoner, was then called in evidence, and deposed that he had no recollection of the signature. The Magistrate, in accordance with the "Fugitive Offenders' Act" committed the prisoner to prison for fifteen days, and in the meantime the prisoner had the right to appeal to the Supreme Court for a writ of *Habeas corpus*.—*Strait Times*.

## LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[SPECIAL TO "DAILY PRESS"]

**THE FRANCO-CHINESE DIFFICULTY.**  
SHANGHAI, 20th July, 6.50 p.m.  
Excitement prevails in Shanghai. The Consuls have met to arrange for the defence of the Settlements. Patrols of sailors appeared to-day in the streets.

**PROBABLE FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS.**  
An Imperial edict has been issued ordering the Viceroy of Nanking, Tseng Kuo-tsun, to come to Shanghai to settle the terms of peace with the French.

**REMOVED TERMS OF PEACE.**  
The terms are rumoured to be a treaty of amity and friendship, an indemnity for the Lungau affair, and the withdrawal of the Chinese troops from Tientsin.

So far there has been no declaration of war.

**THE PEERS AND THE COUNTY FRANCHISE BILL.**  
In the House of Lords the Earl of Wessex introduced a motion urging the Peers to pass the County Franchise Reform Bill without loss of time. The Government promising to introduce the Bill for the redistribution of seats next October. The Lord rejected the motion by 182 yeas against 132.

## POLICE COURT.

July 19th.  
BEFORE MR. A. G. WIER.

**DAMAGE IN THE GARDENS.**  
Kwang Ayan, coolie, was charged with damaging the garden in the Botanical Gardens on Saturday morning.

One of the gardeners said he caught the man in the act of digging up a fern, and gave him into custody.

The defendant said he was only digging up ferns for his own use.

**DRUNKENNESS.**  
Michael Foy, unemployed seaman, admitted having been drunk and incapable in Queen's Road Central on Friday night, and was fined \$10.

**LARCENY.**  
Wing Aik, coolie, employed by the Butts, was charged with stealing three watches for \$10, and a coffee and half a pound of lard.

Private John Pearce was the man coming from the barrow with two tins in his hand. He said he was taking some coffee to the guard and he was found to be in possession of the articles stolen.

The defendant said he was working for nothing. He took the tin to sell, so one gave them to him.

**SIXTEEN CHINESE** were brought before the court on a charge of public gambling, on the 18th inst.

On Friday afternoon P. S. Kemp made a raid on 83, Battery road, and arrested all the defendants there. The first defendant was a man of 35, Battery road, and was fined \$10.

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**TOKIO.**  
Hitherto no military officers have been attached to our foreign Legations except those in England, France, and China. In future one or two commissioned officers will be despatched to the Legations at Yokohama and Kobe.

With regard to the issue of Japanese Loan Bonds in London, about which so much has been said, we understand that the Government did not participate in the issue.

The House of Representatives of the old Nobility, the House of the Exalted Nobles, Kikaku, Okuma, and Nakayama Tadayoshi.

Sixty Counts of the old Nobility, and fourteen of the new Nobility.

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**IN THE RANK OF MARQUESS.**  
Twenty-four Marquesses, being of the new Nobility.

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**OLGA PODRIDA.**  
Lord Wilton has had to submit to a terrible operation which necessitated the cutting out of his tongue. His lordship bore the ordeal with the greatest fortitude.

A youth named Brino, son of an Engineer officer, was struck on the head by a cricket ball on the 20th May whilst practising with school-fellows at Gravesend, and died soon afterwards.

Grass seedling has been successfully used in Pittsburg for heating boilers. The oil forced into the furnace by a jet of superheated steam. The cost, as compared with coal, is as \$2.25 to \$2.50.

"You haven't been acting lately, old boy," said a friend who met the late Mr. H. J. Byron, the actor-dramatist, at a club after his health began to give way. "No, neither has my liver," Byron replied, with one of those quaint forms of speech which he always had ready.

Mrs. Annadabai Joshi, a Marathi lady who proceeded to America some time since for the purpose of studying medicine, has passed the matriculation examination at the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia.

Mr. Joshi will shortly be joined in America by her husband, who has been studying medicine in the United States.

It is not often we hear of accidents from lava flows. The *Bangalore Post*, however, says that Mr. Hinds, of the Royal Lancers, met with a most extraordinary accident while playing lawn tennis. While in the act of running to strike the ball, he fell full length on the floor of the court, and broke his breast-bone. The patient is doing well.

A funny mistake occurred lately in printing labels for a meat-preserving company. The printer had been in the habit of labelling his meat as "beef" or "mutton," and the mistake was made.

The late Lord Stanley was once travelling in a railway carriage when a blustering man exclaimed "I should like to meet that Dean of Westminster." "I'd put a question to him that would make him say 'I'm a very good fellow' to another canon," was his answer.

"I am the Dean," the man was rather startled, but presently recovered, and said, "Well, Sir, you can tell me the way to heaven?" "Nothing easier," answered the Dean, "you have only to turn to the right and go straight forward."

Sir Wilfrid Lawson has got a new funny story with which he delights his friends, friends, and members of the House of Commons. The story is of a High Church young lady who is supposed to be in conversation with a very young theologian named John. She asks him to explain the meaning of the word "high" in the phrase "high church." "Why, your grace, I am the Dean," the man was rather startled, but presently recovered, and said, "Well, Sir, you can tell me the way to heaven?" "Nothing easier," answered the Dean, "you have only to turn to the right and go straight forward."

Mr. Hayward, stationmaster at Midford, near Bath, has a cat which is now engaged in bringing up his kitten (aged three weeks) and a young cat (aged two weeks). The kitten is a male, and the young cat is a female. The kitten is a male, and the young cat is a female.

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Roche and Buckingham, the two wife of Charles II., were, it is said, once walking in the High Street, Oxford, to meet a student who appeared very intent on a book which he held in his hand. When Roche addressed him as follows: "Pray, Mister Student, can you tell which is the nearest road to P—?" The student looking up and knowing his man, replied:—"Some say Buckingham, I say may, for Rochester is the nearest way!"

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MAILS EXPECTED.

**MAILS EXTENDED.**

**THE PERNIOU MAIL.**  
The H.M. steamer *Matal*, with the next outlet  
to French mail, left Singapore at 11 a.m. on  
the 17th, and may be expected here on or about  
the 24th instant.

**THE AMERICAN MAIL.**  
The P.M. steamer City of Tokio, with the next  
American mail, left San Francisco on the 1st,  
and is due here on or about the 29th inst.

**THE INDIAN MAIL.**  
The next direct steamers, with the Indian mail,  
Calcutta on the morning of the 19th July.  
are due here on or about the 4th August.

**STEAMERS EXPECTED.**  
To E. & A. S. S. Co.'s steamer *Sudriks* left  
Canton on the 10th, and may be expected  
on the 21st inst.

To Union Line steamer *Aitnacker* left  
Singapore at the afternoon of the 16th, and is due  
on the 25th instant.

To E. & A. S. S. Co.'s steamer *Tannatios* left  
Dawson on the 17th, and is due here on or  
on the 27th inst.

**POST-OFFICE NOTICES.**

A Postal Guide for 1884, revised to date,  
has been issued by the Daily Press Directory,  
two editions, p. 633 small edition. This  
edition contains complete Summary of  
all information published in Hongkong.

The authorised List of Mails issued in  
conjunction with the same is the one published  
each day in our Extra, which is always  
forwarded to a much later hour than that given  
in the Guide.

**A MAIL WILL CLOSE.**  
On Friday.—For *Anketa*, to-day, the 31st  
at 4.30 P.M.

On Saturday.—For *Changchou*, on Monday,  
1st August, at 9.30 P.M.

**PACKETS BY THE UNITED STATES.**

United States Mail Packet City of New  
York despatched on WEDNESDAY, the  
17th, with Mails for Japan, San Francisco,  
United States, Canada, Honolulu, Peru, &c.,  
will be closed as follows:—  
Mails to Registry close.  
Post-Office close, but Correspondence  
may be posted on board the Packet with  
extra Fee of 10 cents extra Postage until  
time of departure.

**FOR THE FRENCH PACKET.**

French Contract Packet *Franchely*, will  
be closed on THURSDAY, the 24th  
inst., with Mails to the United Kingdom,  
Australia, and places beyond, via Naples;  
to all Steamship Stations, Batavia, Borneo,  
Java, India (via Madras), to Australia (via  
Sydney) and the Cape, Egypt, Malta,  
&c.

After hours will be accepted in closing  
mails.

No person declines all responsibility for  
losing Letters containing Jewellery, &c.,  
where Registration has been neglected, will  
not entitle him to alleged losses of such  
Letters.

**NOTES FOR CLOSING THE CONTRACT  
MAILS.**

**THE ENGLISH MAIL.**  
Following letters are ordered in closing:  
Mails by the British Contract Packet:—  
*Day of Departure.*  
Money Order Office closes.  
Mails to Registry of Letters convey. Post-  
office printed notices and returns ceases.  
Mails close, excepting Late Letters, &c.  
Letters may be posted with late Fee  
of 10 cents until  
Mails to the Post Office close entirely.  
Late Letters may be posted on board  
packet with late fee of 10 cents until  
time of departure.

**THE FRENCH MAIL.**  
*Day before Departure.*  
Money Order Office closes. Post Office  
closes, except the night box, which is always  
open till midnight.

*Day of Departure.*  
Post Office opens.  
Registry of Letters convey. Posting of  
letters in return ceases.  
Mails close, excepting Late Letters, &c.  
Letters may be posted with late Fee  
of 10 cents until  
Mails to the Post Office close entirely.  
Late Letters may be posted on board  
packet with late Fee of 10 cents until  
time of departure.

**FOR THE UNITED STATES BY SAILING  
SHIP.**

It is desired to forward letters to the  
States by a sailing ship which is not ne-  
cessary a mail, it is only necessary to  
insert in the ordinary way, marked  
as usual of the ship, and prepaid 10 cents  
or more as usual. The Post Office then  
takes the duty of obtaining notice of de-  
parture and despatching the correspondence.  
If the letter is not paid if possible  
one day before the date fixed for sailing.

**RATES OF POSTAGE.**

P.R.T. oz. ....	10 Cents
Each additional ounce, each	3 Cents
Patterns, and Commercial	2 Cents.
Papers & Prices Current, each	2 Cents
.....	10 Cents
Mails with return receipt	15 Cents
Registered papers signify such papers as written by hand, do not bear the charac- ter of postal or personal correspondence, such papers, excepting registered, &c. The charge for Papers for Books, but all packets of and oz. weight are charged 5 cents.	

**GOLDEN'S AND SAILED'S LETTERS.**  
Privileges in H.M. Army or Navy, Non-com-  
missioned Officers' Bandmasters, School-  
master Superintendent or First Class  
Master-mistresses may send half-price  
letters to the United Kingdom by the  
Mail at the rate of two cents (one  
cent) per letter. The postage at the rate  
of two cents each. The postage at the  
rate of one cent in London, or in Hongkong  
only, but not both kinds at the same letter.  
Other places not beyond Great Britain,  
India, Malta, &c., the postage is 2 cents  
only.

These privileges apply to letters ad-  
dressed to the Private and Non-commissioned  
rank above.

The letters must not exceed half an ounce,  
excepting Jewellery, &c., can be sent  
by the ends open.

From a Soldier or Sailor his class and  
name must be stated in full on the letter,  
of which must be signed by the Com-  
mandant of the regiment, or ship, &c.,  
officer or Soldier or Sailor, his class and name,  
with name of regiment, ship, &c., must  
be in full.

Officers and Sailors have no privileges  
in books or papers nor can these be  
sent with Imperial Stamps.

Warrant Officers, Clerks, Assistant,  
Groom, Gunner, Boatman, or Carpenter.

**RESPONSIBLE FOR DEBTS.**

THE CAPTAINS, THE AGENTS, nor the  
owners are RESPONSIBLE for any  
debts contracted by the Officers or the Crews  
during Vessels during their stay in  
Hongkong.

Captain, Mr. H. Schumacher—Melchers  
British bark, G. Robb—Adamson, Bell  
German str., P. Moos—Wilder & Co.  
British bark, Br. Brown—Olinde.  
German Ger. bk., C. Maack—Stimsson  
British str., Wm. Jarvis—Yung Kee.  
British bk., W. Anthony—Captain  
German 3-m. schooner, J. Schneiders  
British str., J. Wright—Bornoe Co.,  
British str., D. Scott—Jardine, Matho-  
Co.  
German str., G. Petersen—Stimsson

British bark, D. W. Carter—Order  
German Am. ship, Wm. Bray—  
as Leiraik & Co.



